

**House File 2149 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 2149

BY MASCHER

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to advocacy for long-term care residents and  
2 making an appropriation.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 231.45 Certified volunteer  
2 long-term care resident's advocate program.

3 1. The department shall establish a certified volunteer  
4 long-term care resident's advocate program in accordance with  
5 the federal Act to provide assistance to the state and local  
6 long-term care resident's advocates.

7 2. The department shall develop and implement a  
8 certification process for volunteer long-term care resident's  
9 advocates including but not limited to an application process,  
10 provision for background checks, classroom or on-site training,  
11 orientation, and continuing education.

12 3. The provisions of section 231.42 relating to local  
13 long-term care resident's advocates shall apply to certified  
14 volunteer long-term care resident's advocates.

15 4. The department shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter 17A  
16 to administer this section.

17 Sec. 2. LOCAL LONG-TERM CARE RESIDENT'S ADVOCATES —  
18 APPROPRIATION. It is the intent of the general assembly that  
19 the number of local long-term care resident's advocates as  
20 provided in section 231.42 be increased each year until 15  
21 local long-term care resident's advocates are available in  
22 the state. For the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2012, and  
23 ending June 30, 2013, the following amount, or so much thereof,  
24 is appropriated to the department on aging for the purpose  
25 designated:

26 To provide an additional local long-term care resident's  
27 advocate:

28 ..... \$ 100,000

29 Sec. 3. SUFFICIENT STAFFING OF NURSING FACILITIES —  
30 WORKGROUP REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS. The department on aging  
31 shall convene a workgroup to review staffing in nursing homes  
32 to make recommendations regarding what constitutes sufficient  
33 staffing in meeting resident satisfaction and in providing  
34 quality care. The workgroup shall consist of interested  
35 consumers and providers, and shall include representatives of

1 the office of the state long-term care resident's advocate, the  
2 department of inspections and appeals, the department of human  
3 services, and other appropriate state agencies or departments.  
4 The workgroup shall, at a minimum, review national research  
5 and current practices in developing its recommendations. The  
6 workgroup shall make recommendations to the general assembly no  
7 later than December 15, 2012.

8

EXPLANATION

9 This bill relates to advocacy for long-term care residents.  
10 The bill directs the department on aging (IDA) to establish  
11 a certified volunteer long-term care resident's advocate  
12 program to provide assistance to the state and local long-term  
13 care resident's advocates. The department is to develop and  
14 implement a certification process for volunteer long-term care  
15 resident's advocates. The bill provides that the provisions  
16 relating to local long-term care resident's advocates shall  
17 apply to certified volunteer long-term care resident's  
18 advocates, and directs IDA to adopt rules pursuant to Code  
19 chapter 17A to administer the provisions.

20 The bill also provides that it is the intent of the general  
21 assembly that the number of local long-term care resident's  
22 advocates be increased each year until 15 local long-term  
23 care resident's advocates are available in the state; and  
24 appropriates \$100,000 to IDA for FY 2012-2013 to provide an  
25 additional local long-term care resident's advocate.

26 The bill directs IDA to convene a workgroup to review  
27 staffing in nursing homes to make recommendations regarding  
28 what constitutes sufficient staffing in meeting resident  
29 satisfaction and in providing quality care. The workgroup  
30 is to consist of interested consumers, providers, and  
31 representatives of the office of the state long-term care  
32 resident's advocate, the department of inspections and appeals,  
33 the department of human services, and other appropriate state  
34 agencies or departments. The workgroup is directed to review  
35 national research and current practices in developing its

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1 recommendations, and to make recommendations to the general  
2 assembly no later than December 15, 2012.